



Women's Bureau Talking Points

Overview

- The Women's Bureau is an agency that is part of the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) focused on safeguarding the interests of working women, advocating for their equality and economic security, and promoting quality work environments.
- Established on June 5, 1920—two months before the 19th Amendment was ratified, officially granting women the right to vote—the Women's Bureau is the only federal agency tasked with focusing exclusively on working women.
- As of June 2019, more than 5.6 million jobs have been created in the United States since 2017.¹ At 3.7% in June 2019, the unemployment rate has been at or below 4% for 16 straight months. As of April 30, 2019, there were 7.4 million job openings and we have had more job openings than job seekers for 14 straight months.²
- In 2019, the unemployment rate for adult women reached its lowest point since 1953. Additionally, the labor force participation rate for adult women remains strong at nearly 60% (58.6%).³
- The Women's Bureau functions as a research and policy agency and accomplishes its mission using a combination of:
 - ✓ Research and policy analysis;
 - ✓ Grant-making; and
 - ✓ Education and outreach.
- We work closely with other DOL agencies and a diverse array of federal colleagues outside of DOL who advance the interests of working women.
- Our regional offices located throughout the country also build critical relationships with these groups and serve as conduits for disseminating our research and resources and providing on-the-ground technical assistance.
- Our grant programs focus on expanding opportunities for women to access and thrive in apprenticeship programs and helping women re-enter the workforce following opioid addiction.

Key Issues Affecting Working Women

- The Women's Bureau works on a wide range of issues relating to women in the workforce.
- Areas we have prioritized right now include:
 - ✓ Exploring more ways for women to access and thrive in apprenticeship programs;
 - ✓ Expanding employment opportunities and reducing occupational licensing barriers for women—particularly for military spouses, 92 percent of whom are women;
 - ✓ Assisting women who have been impacted by the opioid crisis get back on their feet and back to work;
 - ✓ Helping increase working families' in areas like to affordable, quality child care and paid leave; and
 - ✓ Growing opportunities for women in entrepreneurship.
- The common denominator to these areas? The economic empowerment of working women.
- Time and again, research shows that when we harness the full spectrum of creative talent available in our workforce, individuals, companies, and communities stand to benefit.
- The nation would not be experiencing the successes of today without women's participation in our economy.
- To maintain this path of success, the Women's Bureau will continue to identify ways for women to enter and grow in the workforce.



Talking Point Sources

¹ “Statement by U.S. Secretary of Labor Acosta on June Jobs Report.” U.S. Department of Labor, July 5, 2019: <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20190705>

² “Job Openings and Labor Turnover Summary.” Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 10, 2019: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/jolts.nr0.htm>

³ “Employment status of the civilian population by sex and age: June 2019.” Employment Situation, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t01.htm>

⁴ “2017 Demographics Profile of the Military Community.” Department of Defense, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy: <http://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2017-demographics-report.pdf>